



## Jacksonville | North Pulaski SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.jnpsd.org](http://www.jnpsd.org)

*Building Futures: Every Scholar, Every Day*

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August 27, 2020

4:03 pm

JNPSD School Community:

Please continue to stay informed through all of our postings on JNP social media, JNP website, local media, and other communication outlets. All community updates and other information posted since March 6 is available for your reference.

### **GOVERNOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (APSRC REPORT)**

The Governor announced that through a partnership between the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and ACHI, beginning today positive cases in a school district will be posted to the ADH website. The site will include information for districts that have more than 5 positive cases. These numbers will include virtual, onsite and blended learning students and staff. The site will also include active and positive cases for colleges and universities. Currently the data shows there are 222 active cases among all school districts in Arkansas.

ADE Secretary Johnny Key said, "This data will report five or more cases at the school district level. These are cases that are connected within the school district. We will be reporting both active cases and cumulative cases, and these will update two times a week. This data will update on Mondays and Thursdays. It will include public schools, many of the private schools that are reporting to us and our institutions of higher education. It will be broken down by students and employees if that data is available"

Secretary Key added, "Districts will have the most real-time data. Since this will be updated twice a week, the numbers that districts are seeing will be something that is very relevant to the conversations that we have with them as we work to assist them with any modifications to onsite operations"

ADH Secretary Dr. José Romero emphasized the importance of school-sponsored bands to adhere to the public health guidance. ADH has received reports that bands are not adhering to social distancing, not using face masks and not using the coverings for their wind instruments.

“If we don’t do that, there will be consequences with infections in the bands. This is an activity that can lead to transmission of the virus, and I want to strongly stress that the guidance is there to protect the students and the adults that are in the area,” Dr. Romero said.

Dr. Romero also provided clarifications to the modifications Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued regarding testing guidance.

“The CDC issued new testing recommendations for those that were exposed but are not showing any symptoms at the time. They recommended that testing was not necessary for those individuals unless they have a high risk condition or a local or state ordinance or local health departments feel it is necessary to do so. Our state health department feels that it is important to test those individuals. We have had some individuals question our request for children or adults who are asymptomatic and have been exposed to someone who has COVID to undergo testing. That is within the recommendation, and we are continuing to seek that testing be performed,” Dr. Romero said.

1. Please stay tuned to all JNPSD communication channels and messages concerning any additional weather-related delays or closures. Please program the school district’s phone number into your cell phone contacts (501-241-2080).
2. The JNPSD COVID case data update will include the latest information from ACHI and ADH. This report will be sent separately from this update.

We appreciate your continuing support and understanding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryan Duffie', written in a cursive style.

Bryan Duffie, Ed.D.  
Superintendent